



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UPDATE: PROJECT CEASEFIRE
TWO KC AREA FELONS SENTENCED
FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARMS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that two Kansas City area men were sentenced in federal court today, in separate and unrelated cases, for illegally possessing firearms. Today's sentencings, Graves said, are part of Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

* **Brian Dean McKenzie, Sr.**, 39, of Kansas City, Kan., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this morning to two years and six months in federal prison without parole.

On Oct. 18, 2004, **McKenzie** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, **McKenzie** admitted that he was in possession of a Mossberg 20-gauge shotgun on June 11, 2004. Under federal statutes, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **McKenzie** has a previous criminal felony conviction for attempted kidnapping.

McKenzie was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on June 13, 2004, in Kansas City.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul S. Becker. It was investigated by the Grain Valley, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Earlen L. Brown, Jr.**, 26, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith this morning to three years and six months in federal prison without parole.

On Oct. 14, 2004, **Brown** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By

pleading guilty, **Brown** admitted that he was in possession of a Winchester .22-caliber rifle on Sept. 1, 2004. Under federal statutes, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Brown** has a 1999 criminal felony conviction for receiving stolen property and a 1998 criminal felony conviction for drug trafficking.

Brown was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Sept. 15, 2004, in Kansas City.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Bruce E. Clark. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Project Ceasefire

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets for federal prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow